



GBSLEP Sustainability Policy

November 2022

The Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) recognises the urgent need to take action in order to prevent catastrophic Climate Change and the Biodiversity crisis, whilst creating a more prosperous and equal society.

The West Midlands has a proud industrial history, which in recent years have started to adapt to a Zero Carbon future in line with National carbon reduction targets. GBSLEP wants to be an enabler of this transformation by supporting partners in the region to meet their ambitious Net Zero Carbon targets and deliver their carbon reduction plans, such as Birmingham City Council's 2030 Route to Zero Plan and the West Midlands Combined Authority's #WM2041 plan.

GBSLEP has a 'triple helix structure' which brings together leaders from business, local authorities, and higher/further education to make evidence based, locally informed investment decisions that drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the region. Through the 'triple helix' approach, GBSLEP supports change in the region by supporting and enabling where it has the resources to do so, local businesses and other stakeholders to reduce their carbon emissions and pivoting their businesses towards a zero-carbon future. GBSLEP's ambition is to support 'Clean and inclusive Growth' and enable the creation of sustainable, fairer and a more inclusive and resilient communities.

GBSLEP aims to undertake actions that will support the regional desire to become net zero by 2030 and is reviewing aspects of its internal operations to bring about the required changes, but also to inspire others to take positive action.

This Sustainability Policy is a statement of GBSLEP's commitment to embed Sustainability in its everyday work. An action plan will track performance and progress towards our target and will ensure continual improvement.

Sustainability Objectives

The GBSLEP have agreed the following core objectives to drive the delivery of interventions that support a Net Zero Carbon society and more sustainable future:

- The Sustainability Policy will have the full support of the Board and the Senior Management Team.
- GBSLEP are committed to undertake continuous improvement and monitor progress through an Action Plan and performance metric indicators. The Action Plan will be updated as appropriate to take account of internal and external changes.

- GBSLEP Staff will be provided with access to publicly available training materials make positive changes in all relevant aspects of their work and reduce their individual emissions, to the extent LEP and personal resources allow.
- GBSLEP are committed to supporting the reduction of energy and carbon emissions in line with the 2030 Net Zero Carbon target as agreed under the UN's 'Race to Zero' scheme, where the LEP has the ability to influence decisions or actions. The desire is to exceed if possible the target and become "planet positive" by absorbing more emissions than we are responsible for.
- We will look to become a zero-waste organisation over time and are committed to policy objective of adopting circular economy principles.
- We will look to buy products and services, in accordance with Public Procurement Guidelines that are more environmentally friendly and show a real commitment to Net Zero Carbon and other sustainability principles.
- GBSLEP will aim to reduce the amount of natural resources that we are responsible for consuming and support biodiversity. We will do this by supporting increasing green infrastructure projects and seeking to limit activities that cause pollution.
- Through its role as agitator, enabler and commissioner, GBSLEP will continue to support its partners to achieve their Net Zero targets and ambitions.

This Sustainability Policy provides the 'backbone' of GBSELEP Sustainability Journey in the immediate future. It represents the direction of travel and not where GBSLEP currently is, nor exactly where they will end up. The Sustainability Policy will be reviewed as appropriate and will evolve based on the nature of the activities being undertaken by the organisation.

Sustainability encompasses every aspect of our society therefore this policy will be delivered in line with all the other GBSLEP policies and appropriate legislation.

GBSLEP policy on WEEE (Waste electrical and electronic equipment) regulations

A large proportion of the electrical equipment used by the LEP is provided by the landlord(s) of the LEP and in using that equipment and indicating that there may be issues with the equipment we follow the guidance provided by those landlords.

In respect of electronic equipment (Laptop and Desktop Computers, Printers, Mobile Phones) utilised and provided to employees by the LEP we are not a distributor, retailer, repairer or refurbisher of such equipment, so the WEEE regulations apply to the LEP indirectly. The LEP follows a circular economy principle as set out in its Sustainability Policy, which is available on the LEP website, in respect of such equipment. The principle can be encapsulated in the phrase "Reduce Reuse Recycle", which in practice means :

1. We only purchase as and when we require.
2. We reuse equipment as individuals leave and start with the LEP.
3. If we are unable to use the equipment, we will firstly offer it to other organisations (in particular charitable or not for profit organisations) and if there if there is no further use we will dispose of the equipment making use of recycling facilities within the Greater Birmingham area.

Henriette Breukelaar
GBSLEP Chief Executive